

2013 -- H 5595

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS - VETERINARY PRACTICE

Introduced By: Representatives DeSimone, Palangio, Lima, Palumbo, and Slater

Date Introduced: February 27, 2013

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 5-25-11 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-25 entitled "Veterinary  
2 Practice" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **5-25-11. Licensing of veterinarians.** -- (a) By Examination. - The applicant is required  
4 to pass, with a grade determined by the division, an examination approved by the division; upon  
5 payment of an examination fee as set forth in section 23-1-54 every candidate who passes that  
6 examination, and in the opinion of the division meets the qualifications of section 5-25-10, shall,  
7 upon payment of an initial license fee, which shall be equal to the biennial license renewal fee in  
8 effect, be issued a license to practice veterinary medicine. Veterinarians licensed under the  
9 provisions of this chapter on August 31, 1985 shall continue to be licensed.

10 (b) Without Examination by Endorsement. - A license to practice veterinary medicine  
11 may be issued without examination to an applicant who has been duly licensed by examination as  
12 a veterinarian under the laws of another state or territory or District of Columbia, if, in the  
13 opinion of the division, the applicant meets the qualifications required of veterinarians in this  
14 state, as further defined in rules and regulations.

15 (c) Emergency or natural disaster. A veterinarian who is properly and currently licensed  
16 or credentialed in another state may practice, without written examination or other qualification,  
17 in the state of Rhode Island during an emergency or natural disaster as determined by the Rhode  
18 Island state veterinarian or the director of the division of agriculture. Said veterinarian shall  
19 provide only those services that are at the direction of the Rhode Island state veterinarian or the

1 chief of the division of agriculture and are directly related to a response to an emergency or  
2 natural disaster and only until the services of the veterinarian are no longer required as  
3 determined by the Rhode Island state veterinarian or the chief of the division of agriculture.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS - VETERINARY PRACTICE

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1           This act would allow licensed veterinarians in other states to practice in Rhode Island  
2 during emergency situations at the direction of the Rhode Island state veterinarian or the chief of  
3 the division of agriculture.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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